



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A

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By electronic Mail

March 10, 2023

Councilmember Robert White
Housing Committee Chair

Dear Councilmember White,

This letter was introduced voted on unanimously at a duly noticed meeting for ANC 1A on March 8, 2023.

On March 8, 2023, The DC Department of Human Services (DHS) shared a press release and announced that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) application portal would close on March 10 at 11:59 p.m. [The press release](#) stated that the portal would be closing due to an exhaustion of funds for the current fiscal year. DHS states that ERAP funds have increased by 485% since 2018, displaying a serious need for this resource for DC's most vulnerable residents.

ANC 1A requests that you introduce and support emergency legislation to fully fund the Emergency Rental Assistance Program through the rest of the fiscal year. Data from the [Eviction Lab](#) shows that eviction rates are rising throughout the country and programs like ERAP help to prevent evictions. Evictions are a violent act that typically result in the seizure of the individual's property, or placing them in storage, requiring a fee to get them back. Evictions can result in a court record, making it difficult to find a new home and get and maintain a job.

[Studies](#) show that evictions, and the impacts of evictions, disproportionately impact black renters. In a city with [persisting and growing racial equity issues](#), neglecting to fund an essential tool to fight evictions would further exacerbate this issue. Again, we are urging you, and other council colleagues, to introduce and support emergency legislation to fully fund ERAP through the rest of the fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Max Ewert, Vice-Chair, ANC 1A

Dieter Lehmann Morales, Chair, ANC 1A



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CC: CM Brianne Nadeau, CM Brooke Pinto, CM Matthew Frumin, CM Janeese Lewis George, CM Zachary Parker, CM Charles Allen, CM Vincent Gray, CM Trayon White, CM Anita Bonds, CM Christina Henderson, CM Kenyan McDuffie, Council Chair Phil Mendelson, Mayor Muriel Bowser